

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1 A signal recording method whereby, in an operation to record a signal onto a recording medium, said signal is recorded in continuous free areas each having a size equal to or larger than a predetermined recording / playback time length.

2 A signal recording / playback method wherein, in an operation to insert an additional signal having a length smaller than a predetermined recording / playback time length into a point of insertion in an area on a recording medium already occupied by an existing signal, said signal recording / playback method is implemented by executing the steps of:

newly allocating a continuous free area on said recording medium with a size of at least said equivalence of said predetermined recording / playback time length to said additional signal;

recording said additional signal in said continuous free area; and

filling up the rest of said continuous free area with a portion of said existing signal adjacent to said point of insertion.

3 A signal recording / playback method wherein, in case a signal already recorded on a recording medium has a continuous segment smaller in size than an equivalence of a predetermined recording / playback time length, said signal recording / playback method is implemented by executing the steps of:

newly allocating a continuous free area on said recording medium with a size of at least said equivalence of said predetermined recording / playback time length to said segment;

relocating said segment to said continuous free area; and

filling up the rest of said continuous free area with a portion of said signal adjacent to said segment.

4 A signal recording apparatus for recording a signal onto a recording medium, said apparatus comprising:

a 1st means for recognizing a continuous free area on said recording medium with a size equal to or larger than a predetermined recording / playback time length; and

a 2nd means for executing control to record a signal onto said continuous free area.

5 A signal recording / playback apparatus for recording

and playing back a signal onto and from a recording medium,  
said apparatus comprising:

a 1st means for recognizing a continuous free area  
on said recording medium with a size equal to or larger  
than a predetermined recording / playback time length; and

a 3rd means for executing control to record a  
signal, which is supposed to be newly inserted into a point  
of insertion in an area on said recording medium already  
occupied by an existing signal, onto said continuous free  
area and to fill up the rest of said continuous free area  
with a portion of said existing signal adjacent to said  
point of insertion.

6 A signal recording / play back apparatus for recording  
and playing back a signal onto and from a recording medium,  
said apparatus comprising:

a 1st means for recognizing a continuous free area  
on said recording medium with a size equal to or larger  
than a predetermined recording / playback time length; and

a 4th means for executing control to relocate a  
continuous segment of a signal already recorded on said  
recording medium having a size smaller than a predetermined  
recording / playback time length and to fill up the rest of  
said continuous free area with a portion of said already

recorded signal adjacent to said segment.

7 A signal recording medium wherein a signal is recorded into continuous areas each having a size equal to or larger than a predetermined recording / playback time length.